

FEB 17 2004

001

OFFICIAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/903,680 Confirmation No.: 4286
 Applicant : NISHIDA et al.
 Filed: July 13, 2001
 TC/A.U. : 1733
 Examiner : Samchuan Cua Yao

Docket No. : 7390/71620 THIS ON-PAGE PAPER WAS FILED BY
 Customer No. : 22242 FACSIMILE TO 703-872-9306
 THIS DATE AS CONFIRMED BY
 THE SIGNATURE BELOW.

Commissioner for Patents
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
 2011 South Clark Place
 Customer Window, Mail Stop NON-Fee Amendment
 Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
 Arlington, VA 22202

February 16, 2004

Supplemental Response

Sir:

Applicants supplement their prior responses to the December 18, 2003 requirement for restriction between Group I claims 1, 3, 6, 17-18 and Group II claims 2, 3-4, 6, 17-18, assuming patentably independent and distinct inventions based on a feature A and a feature B differentiating said Groups, by re-confirming Group I claims subject to the prior traverses, and subject to the understanding that the 'non-elected' claims will be rejoined upon indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 7-16 remain withdrawn from consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By: 
 Kendrew H. Colton
 Registration No. 30,368

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
 1801 K Street, NW -Suite 401L
 Washington, DC 20006-1201
 Telephone: (202) 419-7000
 Facsimile: (202) 419 -7007